

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 14, 2013
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: E. Paterson, M. Kirk, M. Hart, J. Armstrong, P. Barry, N. Silander, J. Saddlemire, C. Paulhus, W. Simpson (4:10 p.m.)

Staff: C. van Zelm (*MDP*), L. Painter (*Town of Mansfield*), L. Hultgren (*Town of Mansfield*)

1. Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

2. April 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Paulhus MOVED, Barry seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Updates:

a. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership:* van Zelm updated the Committee on upcoming project milestones, including the milling and paving of Storrs Road, scheduled for Friday May 17th and Monday, May 20th. Phase 1B is on-target to open in August 2013 for the residential portion with some businesses also expected to open in the August-September time frame. The residences are almost fully leased at this point. She also noted that housing focus groups are being scheduled for June to discuss the residential section of the project.

b. *MCCP:* Armstrong noted that Carriage House is now under new management; ownership remains the same. He provided an overview of Spring Weekend activities, noting that there was more attendance at on-campus activities on Friday than off-campus activities. He indicated a desire to extend the checkpoints until midnight on Saturday next year; this year they were shut down at 10 p.m. and a lot of the activity occurred after 10 p.m. Most of the activity occurred at Carriage House and not at single-family homes. Armstrong also noted that the MCCP will have a formal role at orientation to discuss the impacts of off-campus student behavior and how students can be good neighbors.

Paterson noted that based on reports from the Fire Chief, Resident Trooper and Fire Marshal, the Town was able to significantly reduce staffing for spring weekend. Additionally, troopers were able to focus their attention on a zero-tolerance policy for ordinance violations such as open containers. She noted that efforts to contain spring weekend must continue in future years.

c. *Town/UCONN Water Supply Project:* Hart provided an update on the status of the Water Supply EIE, noting that the University expects to have the Record of Decision completed and sent to the Board of Trustees within the next 8-12 weeks. The University will be requesting additional information from the three suppliers identified in the EIE with regard to financial, social and planning issues. The Town and University have also been engaged in preliminary discussions with Windham Water Works, who has expressed an interest in selling bulk water to the University and Town. Hart explicitly noted that this does not mean that WWW is a preferred alternative and that staff cannot make any operational or financial commitments.

Members questioned the timing of selecting a final alternative and whether it was possible that the Town and University would not agree on a supplier. In response to questions from members, Hart indicated that it would probably take 6-12 months for final selection of a supplier and that it was theoretically possible that the Town and University would not agree on the final selection.

d. *Community Campus Policing.* Paterson, Hart and Saddlemire commended the efforts of Town and University staff and students that led to a quiet and successful spring weekend. Special acknowledgements were given to Chief O'Connor hosting a shared command post and Stephen Petkis and Mike Daniels from the Undergraduate Student Government for their efforts in organizing student activities and redefining spring weekend.

4. Next Generation Connecticut

Kirk noted that the Next Generation Connecticut initiative has been approved by the legislature's finance committee and is moving on to a vote of the house and senate. The initiative would increase enrollment at the Storrs Campus by 5,000 students over the next 10 years; most of whom would be undergraduate students. While the initiative currently includes funding for two new residence halls that would house 800 students, Kirk acknowledged the need for additional student housing on-campus and indicated that the University would continue to plan to add residence halls above and beyond what is included in the Next Generation funding. They understand the potential impacts off-campus, including housing, infrastructure and transportation and will continue to work to address those impacts.

Paterson noted that residents are concerned with the growth of the University and the associated impacts on the Town combined with decreasing PILOT contributions. She indicated the need for further dialogue on how the University advocate for the Town and the need for financial assistance to deal with the impacts of UConn's expansion. Barry expressed concern that the State would not fund residence halls for 100% of the expanded enrollment due to enrollment fluctuations over time. If only 80-90% of the expanded enrollment is housed on-campus, that would leave 500 to 1,000 students to be housed off-campus, which would have a tremendous impact on the Town and surrounding neighborhoods.

5. Municipal Capital Project Update

Hultgren provided an overview of the proposed 2013/2014 Capital Budget and project highlights. Saddlemire inquired as to the timing of the North Eagleville sidewalk; Hultgren noted that the Town hopes to have easements finalized in time to start construction this year. Silander and Armstrong noted that there appears to be a pedestrian crossing hazard on Hunting Lodge Road near Celeron Square; Hultgren indicated that the Traffic Authority would review the situation and determine if changes are needed.

6. Other Business/Announcements

Painter advised the Committee that there will be a Mansfield Tomorrow Open House on June 18th from 4 pm to 9 pm at the Buchanan Center. This will be the first opportunity for the community to comment on the proposed vision for the plan, preliminary strategies related to housing, agriculture and economic development and concepts for the planned development areas.

Paterson reminded Mansfield residents of the Town meeting scheduled for 7 pm that evening and advised that town staff have continued to meet with legislators and CCM on the state budget; however, there potentially may not be a decision on the state budget until August-September.

6. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

No public comments were received.

7. Adjournment

Paulhus MOVED, Simpson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda M. Painter, AICP
Director of Planning and Development, Town of Mansfield